

Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
The United States Fire Administration (USFA) of the Federal  
Emergency Management Agency  
And  
The Center for Disease Control's National Center for Injury  
Prevention and Control (CDC)  
And  
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

I. Introduction

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) was established by the Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974, and is now a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). USFA's primary function is to lead a national effort to meet the needs of state, municipal, and private interests in preventing and controlling this country's fire problem. USFA performs its function through training, data, public education and technology.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), established by the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. 2051 on October 27, 1972, is charged with protecting the American public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products. Injuries and deaths resulting from fires receive particular emphasis in many of the agency's activities, including data collection, voluntary and mandatory standards, and consumer information.

The mission of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is to promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury, and disability. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), established by CDC in June of 1992,

works to prevent and control injuries outside the workplace through research, surveillance, implementation of programs, and communications.

II. Background:

USFA, CDC, and CPSC recognize that they share significant common interests in protecting the American public from the dangers and losses associated with fires. The basis for this memorandum of understanding is an initiative started in FY 2001 by the above named agencies to pool resources and information in the area of the reduction of residential fire deaths and injuries. Each agency has a responsibility in this area and recognizes that a joint effort could more efficiently and effectively produce the desired effects. Through this partnership, new and innovative ideas become more possible. In the FY 2002 budget, Congress allocated \$ 5 million to the USFA to develop public fire education campaigns to reduce deaths and injuries in the U.S. and particularly, amongst the very old, very young, and other high-risk populations. Critical elements of an effective public fire education campaign, include adequate surveillance, research, program development and marketing. By working together through this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in each of the above mentioned areas the opportunity exists to make a significant impact on the numbers and severity of injuries from fire in the United States.

III. Purpose:

This MOU provides an opportunity for all three organizations to facilitate the achievement of common goals and to set forth the parameters for a cooperative effort in the area of public fire education and safety, particularly aimed at populations at high risk for death or injury from fire. This effort is based upon the FY 2002 federal budget as described in the budget narrative. This memorandum of understanding reflects a commitment on the part of CPSC, USFA, and CDC. Each of the three agencies agrees to:

- a. maintain continued cooperation in the agencies' activities, as related to the agreed upon work plan and schedule;
- b. establish a general procedure for maintaining technical cooperation and information exchange between the agencies;
- c. describe the conditions under which cooperative efforts between the agencies will be conducted, and
- d. identify the types of services that will be provided by each agency.

By working cooperatively in areas of common interest, USFA, CDC, and CPSC anticipate more efficient and effective use of their individual resources. These efforts should make positive contributions in reducing the risks and losses associated with fires.

#### IV. Statement of Agreement:

Each of the three agencies desire to develop close cooperation and coordination to ensure the maximum use of the data, information, contacts, and technical resources of each in the appropriate areas as described in the interagency agreements and the descriptions of agreed upon tasks. The intent of this document is to provide a framework for such cooperative effort.

USFA, in accordance with its statutory authority, established policies, management priorities, funding, and staffing patterns, agrees to:

- 1. Share annual National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) data and surveillance techniques to both CDC and CPSC.
- 2. Provide technical advice and consultation to CDC and CPSC in areas in which USFA possesses the appropriate and needed technical expertise.
- 3. Provide agreed upon funding, as per the FY 2002 FEMA/USFA budget, to both CDC and CPSC. Undertake all cooperative activities as mutually agreed upon.

CPSC, in accordance with its statutory authority, established policies, management priorities, funding, and staffing patterns, agrees to:

1. Provide data to both CDC and USFA, as appropriate.
2. Provide technical advice and consultation to USFA and CDC in areas in which CPSC possesses the appropriate and needed technical advice.
3. Use agreed upon funding to complete work described in an Interagency Agreement.
4. Undertake all cooperative activities as mutually agreed upon.

CDC's NCIPC, in accordance with its statutory authority, established policies, management priorities, funding, and staffing patterns, agrees to:

1. Provide data to both CPSC and USFA, as appropriate.
2. Provide technical advice and consultation to USFA and CPSC in areas in which CDC possesses the appropriate and needed technical advice.
3. Use agreed upon funding to complete work described in the attached work plan.
4. Undertake all cooperative activities as mutually agreed upon.

V. Mode of Operation:

To facilitate the activities described as fulfilling the intent of this agreement, the mode of operation agreed upon will be as follows:

USFA, CDC and USFA agree that all initial communications relating to the cooperative activities described in this document shall be conducted through an identified principal point of contact in each agency. The USFA point of contact will be Denis Onieal or his/her designee. The CDC principal point of contact will be Sarah Olson or his/her designee and the CPSC principal point of contact will be Margaret Neily or his/her designee.

In addition to the above, the three agencies agree to work through an "executive committee" to determine policies and make decisions. The executive committee will consist of representatives of each of the signing agencies.

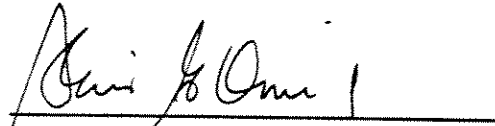
Information resulting from research conducted at or sponsored by either agency and supported by the other shall be provided to each in accordance with any applicable statutory requirements. Each agency reserves the right to utilize the research results and to release those results and findings; however, any such release shall indicate the source of the research and will acknowledge the support of each agency, and adhere to both organizations' statutory requirements concerning the release of information.

The fact of CDC, CPSC and USFA entering into this interagency agreement shall not be construed as USFA endorsement of any action taken by CPSC or CDC, nor endorsement of USFA action by either CPSC or CDC. Furthermore, this agreement shall not be interpreted in any way to indicate that it is for any other purposes than those explicitly stated herein.

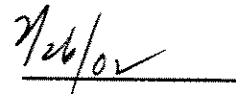
This MOU is not an endorsement of products, services or sources used or tested in the process of carrying out agreed upon activities as described in the work plan, or of any products that may be developed as a result of said activities.

USFA, CPSC and CDC recognize the importance of implementing this MOU and agree to meet on a regular basis to discuss, and determine the precise schedule and activities as appropriate based on the work plan.

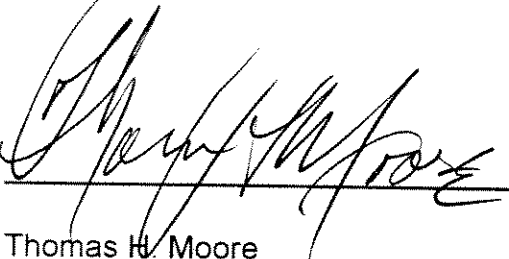
## Agency approvals



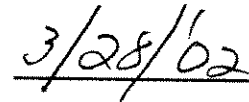
Denis Onieal  
Superintendent  
National Fire Academy  
United States Fire Administration



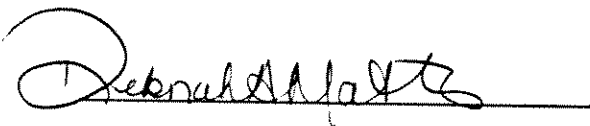
Date



Thomas H. Moore  
Acting Chairman  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission



Date



Debbie Mathis  
Director  
Office of Program Management and Operations  
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control



Date